

Message Text

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13-11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 /088 W

----- 080687

R 180752Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9127

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 6228

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON BANGLADESH SCENE

REF: (A) DACCA 5921; (B) STATE 294558; (C) DACCA 6218

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR FOMIN AT AFGHAN RECEPTION LAST NIGHT ESSENTIALLY CONFIRMED OUR INFERENCE THAT PURPOSE OF TABARAK HUSAIN'S VISIT TO MOSCOW WAS TO EXPLAIN THE BDG'S CURRENT VIEWS AND DIRECTIONS AND MIGHT BE SEEN AS A LOOSE COROLLARY TO BDG'S RECENT MISSION TO NEW DELHI. HE TOLD ME VISIT WAS PROPOSED BY BDG COUPLE WEEKS AGO AND THAT BDG'S SPOKESMAN WAS TO BE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT. FOMIN SAID ORIGINAL INTENTION WAS TO SEND ANOTHER (UNIDENTIFIED) INDIVIDUAL BUT THAT WAS CHANGED AND, ALTHOUGH HUSAIN NAMED, LATTER WOULD STILL BE RECEIVED IN SPECIAL REP CAPACITY RATHER THAN AS FOREIGN SECRETARY.

2. FOMIN CONCURRED IN MY OBSERVATION THAT THIS WAS A CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT BY BDG TO MAINTAIN THE WIDEST POSSIBLE
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DIALOGUE SO VITAL TO THEIR INTERESTS.

3. I ALSO ASKED HIM HOW HE VIEWED THE LOCAL SCENE NOW AND SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE PLANS HE MENTIONED ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO TO EVACUATE SOME DEPENDENTS FROM BANGLADESH OWING TO INSTABILITY IN THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT HE WAS STILL OFFERING THAT OPTION ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS TO DEPENDENTS IN OUTLYING AREAS WHO HAD ONLY A FEW MONTHS REMAINING IN THEIR TOURS AND WHO MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO REACH IN AN EMERGENCY. HE DID NOT MENTION HOW MANY MIGHT BE GOING, BUT HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE TALKING OF A LARGE NUMBER.

4. IN THIS CONVERSATION FOMIN SEEMED MORE RELAXED ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION. HE WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR IN BANGLADESH WHICH HE PERCEIVED WOULD WITNESS SEVERAL PARTIES CONTENTING FOR VOTES, POSSIBLY DRAWING UPON STOCKS OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS AROUND THE COUNTRY TO SETTLE OLD SCORES AND MAKE NEW ONES. THIS ECHOED THE LINE OF HIS OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES WHO ARE NOW SHIFTING THEIR FORECAST OF FURTHER TROUBLE INTO EARLY NEXT YEAR.

5. FOMIN PUNCTUATED HIS CONVERSATION WITH WHAT HE THOUGHT WERE LIGHT TOUCHES SUGGESTING HE WAS NOW MORE ON OUTSIDE LOOKING IN WHEREAS AMERICANS WERE NOW PRESUMABLY BETTER INFORMED THAN HE AS WELL AS PREPARED TO INCREASE OUR AID TO THIS GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER THE LATTER SEEMED TO CONCERN HIM LESS THAN THE ANTICIPATED EARLY ARRIVAL OF A PRC MISSION WHICH HE SAID WOULD NEED TO BE CLOSELY WATCHED. HE SHOOK HIS HEAD IN CLEAR DISAGREEMENT WHEN I SAID THEY MIGHT DECIDE TO BEHAVE CORRECTLY.
CHESLAW

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